# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
# LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:721
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2000
NEW DEPARTMENT TO DEAL WITH NRLS AND PIOS
GADDE RAMAMOHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether a new Depattent is being set up in his Ministry to deal exclusively with the problems of NRIs and persons of Indian Origin (PIOs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the objectives behind setting up this Department;

(d) the other recommendations made by the committee constituted on the subject;

(e) the reaction of the Governrnent thereon; and (i) the time by which the Deparenent is likely to become operational?

## Answer

MIN ISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) & (b): The Office oi the Chief Commissioner (Non-Resident Indians) has been transferred from the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance to the Ministry of External Affairs. This new arranganent would deal with all issues relating to Non-Resident Indians, as well as people of [ndian Origin.

(c): This new department,Would formulate appropriate policies for deepening linkages with all NRIs and overseas Indians, for encouraging their participation in the development of the country in various fields including invesenents, education, culture, science and technology etc. It would also act as an inter-face between the organisations and associations of overseas Indians abroad and the Govemment of India. It would be the coordinator of activides of other Ministries and Organisations dealing with subjects of interest to overseas Sdians.

(d): Ihe Governnment did not constitute any Commitee specifically for this issue.

(e): Does not arise.

(f): An Additional Secretary rank Officer has already asswned charge in the Ministry of External Affairs.